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Applicants: GÖPFERICH, Achim et al.  
Serial No: 10/019,797  
U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP 00/06313

Att. Docket MB9962P

REMARKS

Claims 12, 13 and 16-32 are withdrawn from consideration. By present amendment, claims 1, 6 and 9-11 have been amended, and claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Following entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 9-32 will be pending in the application, with claim 1 being independent.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Eric E. Silverman, PhD, for his thorough search and review of the prior-art, his careful consideration and examination of the present application and claims, and his indication by implication that claim 8 may contain allowable subject matter. In particular, it would appear that claim 8 was not rejected on prior art.

Applicants have amended the only independent claim in the current application, claim 1, to include the limitations of this non-rejected claim 8 and the intermediate claim 7 from which claim 8 depends. All claims now depend ultimately from independent claim 1 which includes the content of non-rejected claim 8. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the current claims in the subject application patentably distinguish over, and are allowable over, the prior art of record.

The Office Action objected to claim 11 citing 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), and rejected claims 6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Regarding this objection and rejection, Applicants respectfully disagree with them but has amended relevant parts of the claims to further define the invention. The Examiner is requested to review these changes, and to reconsider and withdraw the objection to and rejection of record with respect to these claims.

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In view of the above, Applicants submit that in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein, the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions

Respectfully submitted,



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